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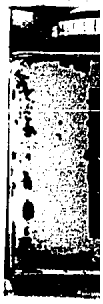

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SOURCE Jen-min Jih-pao.

POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, CULTURAL PRIVILEGES OF KOREANS IN MANCHURIA

In 1950, the 1,200,000 Koreans in Manchuria enjoyed full privileges as citizens of the People's Republic of China. In each Korean ch'u they had their own local government, and they also sent delegates to all major central and local political conferences. The Minority Nationalities Affairs Commission had Korean members. In some areas the working cadres and administrative cadres were composed entirely of Koreans. In early 1950, there were 900 Korean ch'u cadre members, 27 hsien cadre members, and 5,200 working cadre members in Manchuria.

The Koreans in Manchuria benefited under the land-reform program. Under Japanese rule, 90 percent of the Korean farmers were landless. In 1950, the Koreans in Sungkiang Province owned 58 percent of the rice fields.

The 200,000 Korean students in Manchuria in 1950, attended their own schools using Korean textbooks. The Koreans published two Korean-language newspapers which had a combined circulation of 45,000. A publishing house owned by Koreans published 440,000 copies of Korean books and magazines in 3 years.

According to a Japanese source, the Korean population in Manchuria reached 1,420,564 in 1943. After the Japanese capitulation in World War II, many Koreans returned to Korea, leaving about 1,200,000 in Manchuria. During the Chinese war of liberation over 50,000 Koreans volunteered for the Chinese People's Liberation Army. Many Koreans were in the Fourth Field Army during the period from the liberation of Manchuria to the capturing of Hainan Island. They held posts in that army ranging from fighters to commanding officers, showing outstanding heroism and contributing greatly to the revolutionary victory in China.

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Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, the Koreans in Manchuria have been enjoying full privileges of citizens of the Central People's Republic, not as "squatters" or "immigrant settlers" with limited privileges as they once had. Today, the Koreans in Manchuria are participating with other citizens in the political, economic, and cultural construction of Manchuria.

Political Life

The Koreans have established local governments of their own in every Korean ch'u. In mixed areas of Koreans and Chinese, the Koreans are represented in local governments in proportion to their population. The Koreans sent their delegates to the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference held in September 1949. This event marked the first occasion in history that any of the minorities in China had the privilege of acting truly as a brother of the Chinese people.

Many Koreans also attend various local conferences in Manchuria. The city conferences in Shen-yang, Chi-lin, Ch'ang-ch'un, Kung-chu-ling, etc., invariably include one or two Korean delegates. Five of the 220 delegates to a conference recently held in Yung-chi Hsien were Koreans.

The Minority Nationalities Affairs Commission of the Central People's Government and the corresponding agency of the Northeast People's Government, has Korean members. In the five hsien in Kirin Province where there is a heavy concentration of Koreans, the working cadres are composed entirely of Koreans. Also, in Sunghiang Province, the ch'u and ts'un administrative cadres are composed solely of Koreans in three Korean ch'u and 214 Korean-Chinese ch'u, which together contain 141 administrative (hsing-cheng) ts'un and 265 nonadministrative (tzu-jan) ts'un.

In the first half of 1950, there were altogether 900 Korean ch'u cadre members and 27 hsien cadre members in Manchuria. In addition, there were 6,200 Korean working cadre members who had received various types of training and were serving in numerous fields of activity.

Economic Life

The Koreans are a brave and hard-working people. They have reclaimed and are cultivating a vast acreage in Manchuria. Under the Japanese rule, about 90 percent of the Korean farmers in Manchuria were landless peasants, exploited by Japanese companies. It was the land reform that gave the Koreans, Mongolians, and the Chinese alike an opportunity for the first time to own land, livestock, farm implements, houses, and other necessities of life without being subject to exploitation.

For example, the following data on Yen-shou Hsien, Sungkiang Province, before and after the land reform clearly shows the economic gains among the Koreans after the land reform:

Before Land Reform

Total number of Korean families in hsien	2,275
Total area (in mou) cultivated by Koreans	59,120
Number of mou owned by Koreans (7.6% of total area cultivated by Koreans)	4,500

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After Land Reform

Total number of Korean families in hsien	1,956
Number of mou distributed to Koreans by land reform (over 15 times the area owned before reform)	71,540

Of the total 936,040 mou of rice fields in Sungkiang Province, 539,280 mou, or 58 percent, are now owned by Korean "landowners." This is tantamount to an average holding of 13.3 mou per family, or more than 2.9 mou per capita. Besides land, the Koreans in this province own 20,000 head of livestock, 9,000 carts, and 20,000 units of agricultural machinery of all kinds. Each family owns an average of one domestic animal. There is one cart for every four families.

There are 51 Korean farm-households in Chang-chia-chieh T'un, Hsu-chia Ts'un, Shu-lan Hsien, Kirin Province. This is one of the many localities which has thrived most conspicuously since the land reform. During the last 3 years, this village has doubled its farm production, converted 170 mou of dry land into rice paddies, built 19 new houses, dug 17 wells, and increased the number of cattle from 17 head to 47 head and carts from 11 to 28.

Cultural Life

In Manchuria, at present, there are 1,500 Korean primary schools, 70 secondary schools, 4 normal schools, and a university. The total number of Korean students exceeds 200,000. These schools use Korean textbooks written in the Korean script. In their daily use the Koreans have discarded the Chinese characters in favor of the Korean script which is easier to read. This has resulted in conspicuous reduction of illiteracy among the Koreans.

The Koreans in Manchuria publish the Korean-language Tongbuk Choson Inmin Ilbo (Northeast Korean People's Daily News) and Kongnong-bo (Industry and Agriculture Report). The combined circulation of these papers reaches 45,000. Within the past 3 years a Korean publishing house published 440,000 copies of textbooks, reference books, magazines, etc.

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